

Project Name:

Save \$3.5M to rebuild a single bridge instead of two

Recipient:

Park County, MT

Address:

414 East Callendar Street, Livingston, MT 59047

Amount Requested:

\$9,500,000

Project Explanation:

The 2022 flood on the Yellowstone River was a once-in-500-years catastrophic event which destroyed highways, bridges, and other infrastructure in Yellowstone National Park and Park County, MT. The flood destroyed a utilities transmission line across the river and delayed a project to build a pedestrian bridge. Stuck in their bureaucratic ways, two Federal agencies authorized the construction of two separate structures across the river, one for pedestrian access (WFLAP) and one for utilities (FEMA) for a total of \$13,500,000; however, the total cost for construction of one combined pedestrian/utility bridge over the Yellowstone is estimated at \$9,500,000. This funding would be used to combine the two bridges to become one pedestrian bridge that carries utility lines, thus saving taxpayers \$3.5 million.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2601

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Yellowstone National Park Bridge Consolidation Project

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Yellowstone National Park Bridge Consolidation Project in Fiscal Year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Park County Montana, located at 414 East Callender Street, Livingston MT 59047.

The funding would be used to combine two bridges to become one pedestrian bridge that carries utility lines, thus saving taxpayers \$3.5 million. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would address future flooding issues which recently caused significant damage to the region. The 2022 flood on the Yellowstone River was a once-in-500-years catastrophic event which destroyed highways, bridges, and other infrastructure in Yellowstone National Park and Park County, MT. The flood destroyed a utilities transmission line across the river and delayed a project to build a pedestrian bridge. Stuck in their bureaucratic ways, two Federal agencies authorized the construction of two separate structures across the river, one for pedestrian access (WFLAP) and one for utilities (FEMA) for a total of \$13,500,000; however, the total cost for construction of one combined pedestrian/utility bridge over the Yellowstone is estimated at \$9,500,000.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Ryan K. Zinke

Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress